Enhancing climate transparency (ECT) in developing countries - a contribution to the UNDP Climate Promise

Through the provision of support to French speaking and Portuguese speaking Countries.

This initiative supports Countries in enhancing their climate data and transparency frameworks and in supporting the proper tracking of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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1 Summary

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), created on the basis of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, is critical to implementation of NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) and the Paris Agreement as a whole, as it provides the framework for countries to provide clarity and report on their climate action and on support provided and received. Since 2021, all countries, both developed and developing, are now expected to begin preparations to comply with Article 13 requirements.

Further, the introduction of enhanced transparency framework presents an opportunity to streamline MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) activities by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. Specifically, requirements under the Paris Agreement that necessitate the establishment of institutional arrangements for the estimation, compilation, and timely reporting of national inventory reports can form the core of an MRV system that can collect and report on other data and information needed for National Communications under the UNFCCC and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) under the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to share experiences and good practice across Parties, avoiding the need to devote valuable time and scarce expertise and funding to elaborate unique structures and approaches for each developing country Party.

Under this framework, this project aims to provide capacity building support on data and transparency to lusophone and francophone countries and to foster south/south and north/south exchanges among beneficiary countries in order for targeted Countries to count with an effective governance and enabling environment over time to accelerate and scale NDC implementation. This support will be delivered at the country and regional level and will target the following countries over a 4 year timeframe:

Table 1: Beneficiary countries

Region	Participating Countries	Number of Developing Countries
Lusophone cluster	Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, *Portugal (as provider)* , Sao Tome and Principe, Timor Leste	8
Francophone Cluster	Algeria, *Belgium (as provider)*, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, *France (as provider)*, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Lebanon, *Luxembourg (as provider)*, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, *Monaco (as provider)*, Morocco, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, *Switzerland (as provider)*, Togo, Tunisia.	27

2   Context

The Paris Agreement, NDCs and UNDP's Climate Promise

The Paris Agreement signified an important turning point in climate change negotiations as the global community recognized the urgency in facing climate change and agreed on a goal of "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing significant efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks of impacts" (Article 2). Countries also agreed to increase the ability of countries to adapt to climate change impacts, and to ensure finance flows are consistent with these mitigation and adaptation objectives. The Paris Agreement also introduces a mechanism by which each country can outline and communicate their pledges towards these goals, in the form of a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs). It is expected that countries revise and update their NDCs every five years, with the aim to enhance ambition such that the goals of the Paris Agreement are met.

With the 5th Anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement, Parties have the (first) opportunity to submit a revised NDC – with expectation that this would be a stronger, more robust contribution and raises climate ambition. Currently, according to UNFCCC and UNDP data, over 170 countries are planning to submit a revised NDC, demonstrating countries' strong commitment to the Paris Agreement and the multilateral approach that underpins it. The COVID-19 crisis is clearly having a concrete impact on the approaches taken for NDC revision processes, the timeline for submission, and the capacity of Governments. However, data from UNDP's engagement with countries shows and encouraging trend, that countries are still committed the Paris Agreement despite these impacts of the pandemic, and plan to submit revised and more ambitious NDCs ahead of COP26 in November 2021.

As part of the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in 2019, the United Nations Development Programme pledged to support at least 100 countries to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP26. This pledge turned into **UNDP's Climate Promise**, which is now the world's largest offer of support to countries on NDC enhancement and has contributed to an increase of climate mitigation and adaptation ambition. This success has built on the strong foundation of UNDP's historic support to countries on NDCs (e.g. NDC Support Programme) National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and transparency (through National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, etc.), and its broader portfolio. It also draws on strong partnerships at the national, regional and global levels.

The next chapter of the Climate Promise: from Pledge to Impact, will include scaling-up support for countries to raise ambition and implement their NDCs. This will also be underpinned by strong support to green COVID-19 recovery measures, as well as leveraging UNDP's strength through measures that align UNDP's broader portfolio with the Paris Agreement and NDCs.

The next chapter of UNDP's Climate Promise comes at a time when countries are finalizing their NDC submissions and navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and economic and development challenges. To identify key entry points of support for this next chapter of the Climate Promise, UNDP undertook an extensive analysis on trends, partnerships, challenges, lessons, and insights. One of the most critical challenges to countries in designing and delivering their NDC targets is on data and transparency. The ability to track, monitor and report on progress directly informs an understanding and ability to advance ambition in subsequent NDC revisions. As such, data and transparency has become a strong component of this next phase of the Climate Promise.

UNDP's offer on Transparency is embedded within the Climate Promise and encapsulates the different dimensions of support provided to countries in this area, including the support to 120 countries to access GEF resources for National Communications, BURs, and more recently BTRs, while also supporting over 20

countries to enhance their transparency frameworks through GEF-funded Capacity Building Initiatives on Transparency (CBIT) national projects. Building on current work to support countries on REDD+ measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) as well as market readiness, UNDP is well-placed to support transparency-related technical advisory services, with a focus on the forest sector. This work relies on the Paris Agreement LULUCF Assessment & NDC Tool (PLANT) which is being used to assess the current capacities and systems and the necessary additional support needed to meet requirements under the ETF.

Data and Transparency

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), created on the basis of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, is critical to implementation of NDCs and the Paris Agreement as a whole, as it provides the framework for countries to provide clarity and report on their climate action and on support provided and received. Since 2021 (i.e. the first year falling under the Paris Agreement), all countries, both developed and developing, are now expected to begin preparations to comply with Article 13 requirements.

The advent of enhanced transparency frameworks presents an opportunity to streamline measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) activities related to climate change by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. This approach can reduce the time burden and financial burden on developing countries. Figure 1 below provides an overview of current reporting requirements for Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. The figure highlights two elements: 1) The multiple sets of requirements; and 2) The common elements across these requirements.
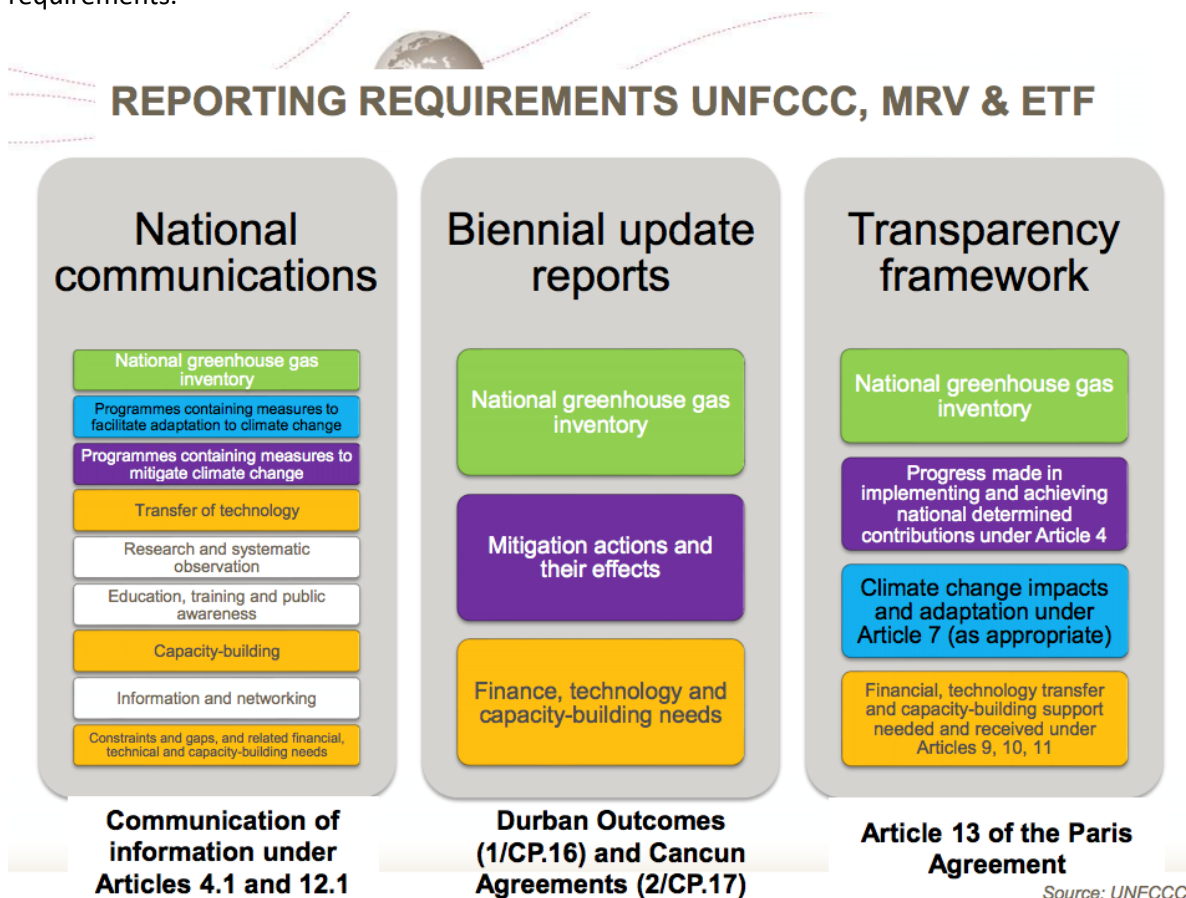

Figure 1: Overview of Climate Change Reporting Requirements

It should be noted that progress in reporting under the UNFCCC and the Durban Outcomes and Cancun Agreements varies widely among developing countries. There are countries that have produced several

national communications (NCs) and several biennial update reports (BURs), while other countries have not even produced their first BURs. In general, over time, Non Annex I (NAI) country reporting to the UNFCCC has advanced to the point where 154 NAI countries have submitted their National Communication (NC), 143 NAI countries have submitted a second NC, 84 countries have submitted a third NC, and 11 NAI countries have submitted a fourth NC. Uruguay has submitted a 5th NC, and Mexico has submitted 5th and 6th NCs. For Biennial Update Reports (BURs), 65 NAI countries have submitted a first BUR, 34 have submitted a second BUR, 15 have submitted a third BUR, and 5 have submitted a fourth BUR.

For lusophone countries, only Brazil (four BURs) and Guinea Bissau (one BUR) have already submitted such documents to UNFCCC, while all other countries have yet to submit a BUR. Similarly, while francophone countries have had a higher rate of submission, still more than half are working on their first BUR, highlighting the challenges still existing among lusophone/francophone countries in establishing national MRV systems.

The Conference of Parties (COP) 24 held in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland reached a series of important decisions regarding transparency under Article 13, known collectively as the Paris Rulebook. The decisions outlined key commitments for all parties to the agreement and their timing during the 2021-2024 "Preparatory Phase" for reporting. It was expected that key elements of the rulebook would be clarified in the subsequent COP (COP25), but the COP did not reach agreement in these areas. It is now expected that COP.26 in Glasgow (November 2021) will agree on the outstanding elements of the Paris Rulebook related to transparency.

The development of the Paris Rulebook also signifies a change in biennial reporting for Non Annex I countries, which will submit their final Biennial Update Report (BUR) by 2024, to be followed by the submission of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) by the end of 2024 as presented in Figure 2.
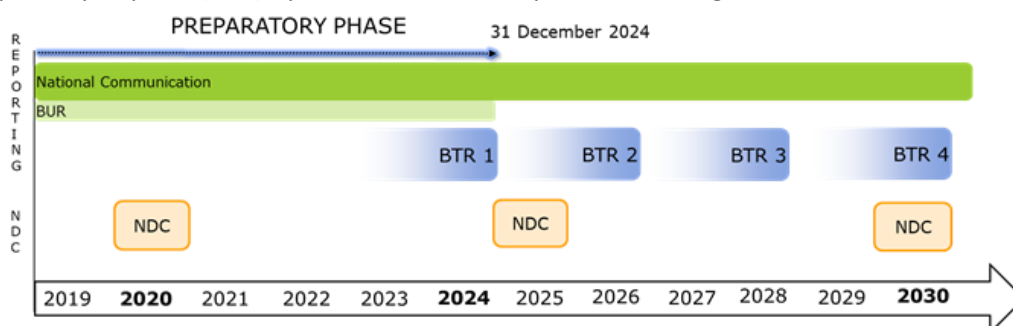

Figure 2: Timeline for the introduction of the BTR, with the deadlines for BTR and NDC submissions[1]

While the BTR will supersede the BUR, at present the reporting requirement under the UNFCCC to submit National Communications (NCs) is still in place. In addition to this reporting, at COP 25, the UNFCCC agreed on a 5-year strengthened Gender Action Plan (GAP). Figure 3 below describes the flow of information in the Transparency Framework and links with other articles of the Paris Agreement.

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[1] Source: UDP, 2019. Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.
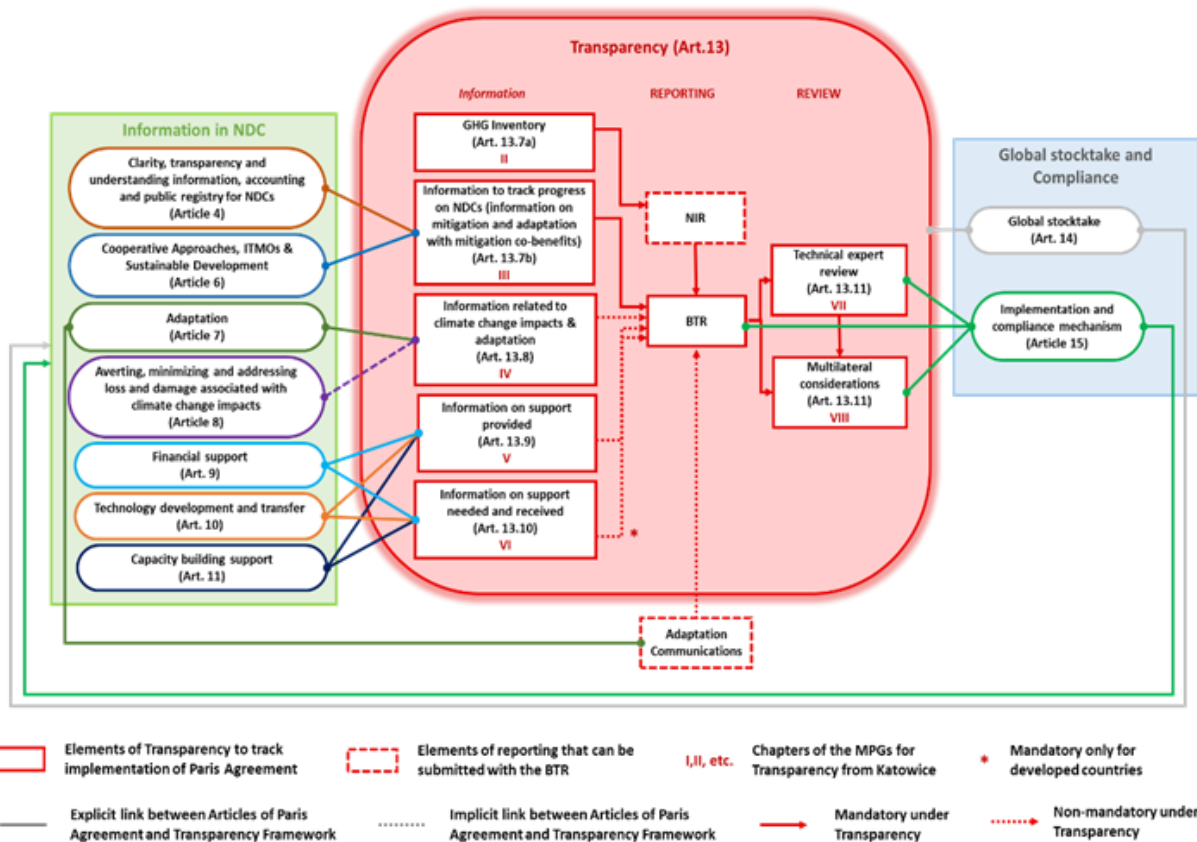
Figure 3: Overview of the flow of information in the Transparency Framework and links with other articles of the Paris Agreement[2]

At present, these multiple commitments represent a serious challenge to developing country Parties, which also go beyond specific reports. While these countries have an increasing number of methodological and informational resources at their disposal, many of them face persistent challenges in their capacity to monitor and report on climate change: a lack of data, staff shortages and turnover, and a lack of individual capacity to conduct certain transparency-related activities (see Table 1).

Table 2: Barriers to the Development of Enhanced Transparency Frameworks

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Description
Country-level institutional framework for reporting on mitigation, adaptation, and financial resources needed and received	Institutional	Many developing countries have some information systems that contribute to reporting in their NCs and BURs; however, these systems are often incomplete and unconnected. Countries often lack the legislative and regulatory mandates to obtain data from sectoral ministries on an ongoing basis. Even when such mandates exist, there may be problems with enforcement, which relate to underlying issues of political support. In cases where data are received, they may not be properly formatted or vetted for quality.
Technical and management capacities to prepare solid quality reports	Organizational / individual	Government agencies that are currently responsible for reporting and transparency are understaffed, and frequent turnover and administrative reorganization can cause disruptions in the continuity of employees working on the reports. When staff are available, they may lack particular

		methodologies that would allow them to undertake impact assessments of mitigation and adaptation measures and vulnerability to climate change. In other cases, staff are fully occupied with current reporting projects and lack the time and resources to interpret new developments related to Article 13. When consultants are used, agencies may lack the capacity to identify the proper expertise and procure experts that correspond well to needs and can also provide opportunities for learning by doing to project staff. In other cases, training materials may not be available in a format or language that is accessible to staff.
Availability of data	Organizational	While data gaps and uncertainties have improved in the past few years in many countries, they continue to be a very important barrier to the quality and comprehensiveness of the NC reports, and the sustainability of the NC and BUR processes. These gaps will also hinder the robustness of country Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This barrier is closely related to the lack of harmonized institutional frameworks, as in some cases data are available at the country or regional level, but are not consistently shared.
Stakeholder consultation processes	Institutional / Organizational/ Cultural	Many countries lack the tools for broad consultative processes that include a wide variety of sectoral agencies and civil society, including the private sector and disadvantaged groups. A consultative approach is seldom part of the organizational culture of institutions leading those processes.
Integration of gender considerations	Institutional / Organizational/ Cultural	Although gender is mentioned in a number of NDCs, evidence suggest that developing countries' capacity to support gender mainstreaming (or other mainstreaming of socially excluded groups), to integrate gender-related climate change findings into sectoral policies, and to participate meaningfully in the strengthened 5-year Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.25) needs to be strengthened.

Despite these barriers, the introduction of enhanced transparency framework presents an opportunity to streamline MRV activities by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. Specifically, requirements under the Paris Agreement that necessitate the establishment of institutional arrangements for the estimation, compilation, and timely reporting of national inventory reports can form the core of an MRV system that can collect and report on other data and information needed for National Communications under the UNFCCC and BTRs under the Paris Agreement. This approach could reduce the time burden and financial burden on developing country Parties. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to share experiences and good practice across Parties, avoiding the need to devote valuable time and scarce expertise and funding to elaborate unique structures and approaches for each developing country Party.

This project proposal is consistent with the Paris Agreement and national priorities, such as national communications, BURs, and NDCs, and responds to the needs and demand for support from countries. Specifically it will strengthen the necessary capacities and tools in countries to track progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation and, more specifically, Nationally Determined Contributions. Support for capacity strengthening related to monitoring and tracking progress on key climate-related indicators will also support

data collection and analysis that can in turn inform other policy exercises, such as TNAs, NAPs, NCSAs, and others.

This project will also contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 and 17. The support provided will serve as an underlying mechanism for tracking progress towards combatting Climate Change (SDG 13) while at the same time provide a forum encouraging partnerships among relevant actors (SDG 17).

3 Rationale for the programme

This proposal is designed to be implemented as part of UNDP's Climate Promise, an umbrella initiative that encompasses all of UNDP's support to countries on NDCs. UNDP is currently transitioning from the initial Climate Promise, focused on NDC enhancement, into the next phase, a broader effort to focus on NDC implementation and alignment with long-term net-zero and climate-resilient pathways. While support on data and transparency was a key component of the first phase (i.e. Service Line 5: Monitor Progress and Strengthen Transparency), this will continue to be a strong focus of the next phase which is currently under development. In addition, this proposal directly links up with UNDP's ongoing portfolio of work on transparency, including support on NCs and BURs, CBIT, NAPs, SCALA, among others. The work funded under this proposal will build on the successful experience and lessons learnt generated by UNDP's Global Support Programme (GSP), as reported in Table 2.

As developing countries will continue to face challenges in implementing their nationally appropriate MRV systems and in complying with the requirements of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, and considering UNDP's success and recognition in providing support to francophone and lusophone clusters, the project proponents consider UNDP to be very well suited to continue the provision of support to the two clusters with the generous financial support of the Belgian Government.

Table 3 – Some of the results and achievements by the GSP over the period 2015-2021

Since September 2015 and until its finalization in September 2021, the GSP has been providing technical support to all developing countries and national and regional training workshops and dialogues on issues of NCs, BURs and their components have been realized.

Guidance documents were prepared and published, including translation of existing guidelines into other United Nations languages. To date, thirty-seven regional workshops, thirty-six national workshops and more than sixty webinars have been organized, co-organized and/or co-funded by the GSP, counting with the participation of representatives from more than a 100 developing Countries. The GSP has also assisted 72 countries in reviewing 45 GHG inventories, 21 NCs, and 18 BURs. In addition, 26 countries have received request-based support, where GSP has reviewed technical terms of reference for experts. In addition to a high level of activity, the GSP has had a truly global reach: it has engaged 131 non-Annex I parties, and 85% of all non-Annex I parties, 90% of all least developed countries (LDCs), and 100% of all small island developing states (SIDS) have participated in GSP activities. It has also been able to respond to all country requests to date. In the course of the mid-term evaluation of the GSP, "Stakeholders interviewed uniformly expressed an appreciation of GSP support in terms of relevance, quality, and utility."

Further since 2017, the GSP supported the establishment of the MRV Lusophone cluster, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Belgium and the PATPA initiative, supporting the implementation of two in person workshops – where Government representatives from all nine lusophone countries attended – the translation of relevant technical material in Portuguese as well as the realization of several webinars and national trainings.

Similarly, the GSP has also worked closely with other stakeholders – including among others FAO, PATPA, Ministry of Environment of Belgium, CITEPA- to strengthen support and collaboration in French through the launch of a francophone cluster on MRV. Under this line of work, support was provided in implementing in person workshops engaging representatives from more than 30 French speaking Countries, regional webinars as well as in person workshops (e.g. and among others, trainings on greenhouse gas inventory -GHG- training in Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire , on AFOLU in Morocco, on energy modelling in Togo).

4   Lessons learned

In December 2020, UNDP's GSP hired an independent consultant to implement an assessment[3] in order to draw insights and map learning outcomes from the networks/clusters supported by the GSP in the period 2016/2020. The assessment's primary task was to collect and distill the feedback received from the network participants and coordinators into insights and baseline measures for application to future programmatic interventions.

The mapping exercise and assessment were conducted in two stages: in a first stage was the design and implementation of a survey instrument and collection of data from respondents who were members of the networks and the second stage included a detailed questionnaire directed at the network coordinators and semi-structured interviews with the UNDP team overseeing the network coordination.

Background

The assessment identified that there is a good match between the needs of the network members and the rationality behind setting up the networks.

Connectedness

Respondents with low levels of prior experience assess person-to-person connections as highly valuable. In return, respondents with high levels of prior experience tend to communicate with other participants more frequently. More experienced network members contribute to the discussions, and respondents with lower levels of expertise appreciate their contributions. These two insights point out that heterogeneity in the levels of experience is leveraged and a value-added feature of the networks.

Substantive learning

The results found that respondents with lower previous experience levels found that information disseminated over the network significantly challenged or changed their assumptions. This shows that the information provided in the network contributes to substantial learning outcomes for the members with lower levels of previous experience. An overwhelming majority of the respondents, 72%, considered information they received through the network exchanges on the overall preparation of NCs/BURs extremely helpful. A higher share of respondents, 84%, reported that information shared on MRVs components and GHGI was extremely helpful.
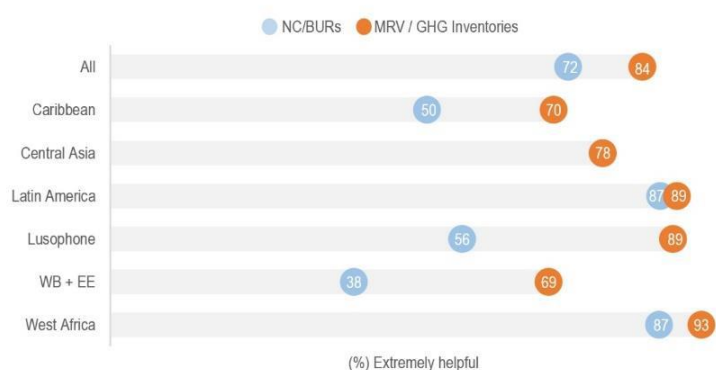

Figure 4: Network respondents inputs on usefulness of information through network exchanges

Relational learning

Not surprisingly, participants with lower levels of previous experience tended to spend more effort on learning information shared over the network, suggesting that members with low levels of prior experience show

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[3] Full document available upon request

significant commitment. Also, effort spent on learning and frequency of participation over email are correlated, suggesting that finding innovative strategies to support participation may increase participants' commitment to learning and sharing information disseminated over the network.

Overall results show that exchanges in the network lead to better substantive learning, i.e., understanding of own problems and solutions, than relational learning, i.e., understanding of problems other members face. Given that the networks were set up to assess and meet the members' needs directly, the results are not surprising. **The results however also reveal that participants who learn from the problems and solutions of other countries report significant change in their awareness and understanding**. In the future, as networks mature, peer-matching across the networks and to facilitate trans-network learning experience could lead to better cooperative structures.

Beyond the networks

The majority of the respondents would consider suggesting the network to colleagues who are not members of the network. The mapping exercise shows that almost half of the respondents marked their colleagues' receptivity as high, suggesting that the network activities contribute to sustainable change by reaching out to non-member colleagues of the participants.

The survey participants emphasized high satisfaction for the network coordinator's help, which highlights the pivotal role that the coordinators play.

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Therefore, those results highlight the initial success and future potential in continuing with the chosen approach of enhancing peer to peer collaboration through the establishment/strengthening of cluster/networks among developing countries, on the base of e.g. common languages and/or cultural elements. Such lessons learnt confirm the strong rationality behind the support to the francophone and lusophone clusters and strengthen the case for the provision of additional support by UNDP to countries who are part of those networks.

5 Description of the programme

Expected objectives and results

The project's **overall objective** is that targeted Countries have an effective governance and enabling environment over time to accelerate and scale NDC implementation, by providing streamlined support and capacity building on data and transparency to developing countries. This will be delivered at the country and regional level with a focus on francophone and lusophone countries.

The outcome of the project is: 1) Policies, institutionalized structures and financing mechanisms and systems are strengthened across francophone and lusophone developing countries to deliver and track NDC targets across sectors in line with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The **specific objectives** are to:

- Targeted developing countries have increased capacity to undertake MRV and ETF activities and to submit BTR in line with the requirements of article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

- Targeted developing countries increasingly enhance information and data available to support data-based climate policies and actions as well as properly tracking the implementation of their NDCs.

The objectives will be addressed through two outputs:

- ➢ **Output 1**: Francophone and Lusophone MRV clusters are maintained and strengthened, including through bilateral and peer to peer exchanges.

- ➢ **Output 2**: Training and other relevant, specific technical support provided to cluster members to address gaps and needs as they are identified.

Indicative activities

Output 1: Francophone and Lusophone MRV clusters are maintained and strengthened, including through bilateral and peer to peer exchanges.

Indicative **activities** under this output will include:

- Recruit and appoint network/cluster coordinators who will oversee communications and technical exchanges within the two selected networks/clusters, in coordination with the PATPA, CITEPA and Belgium Government focal points and the project manager.
- Conduct/update assessments of skills and knowledge gaps and needs (on all relevant topics) for the implementation of the Paris rulebook and country level participation in the enhanced transparency framework.
- Design and provide feedback on the design of annual network plans.
- Organize network activities through annual work plans based on cluster needs assessments.
- Capture knowledge generated by each network and foster exchanges and peer to peer collaboration among the two clusters, in the form of webinars, audio briefings, web content, and other knowledge products.

Output 2: Training provided to cluster members to address identified gaps and needs

Indicative **activities** under this output will include:

- Implementation of at least one in person annual technical workshop per each cluster, if COVID 19 related circumstances allow it, and in partnership with other donors.
- Implementation of -tentatively- three annual webinars per each cluster, respectively in French and Portuguese, on technical matters related to MRV, ETF, gender integration into MRV, climate finance tracking and NDC tracking.

- Realization of (national) trainings or provision of other specific technical support as per needs identified, when possible incentivizing peer to peer collaboration among countries.
- Match-making facilitation that will respond to countries' requests, fostering south-south sharing of experiences to provide solutions to countries' needs.
- Translation of relevant technical documents into French and Portuguese to be used by national counterparts.

Table 4: Cluster Overview

Region	Participating Countries	Number of Developing Countries
Lusophone cluster	Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, *Portugal (as provider)* , Sao Tome and Principe, Timor Leste	8
Francophone Cluster	Algeria, *Belgium (as provider)*, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, *France (as provider)*, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Lebanon, *Luxembourg (as provider)*, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, *Monaco (as provider)*, Morocco, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, *Switzerland (as provider)*, Togo, Tunisia.	27
Total Number of Countries		**35**

Project sustainability

The project approach emphasizes sustainability in several ways. It directly supports the social dimensions of sustainability through capacity strengthening activities for policy-makers and technical experts in beneficiary countries. The project includes specific activities to foster exchanges and learning among national, regional and international experts, who will be able to support MRV/transparency activities in other developing countries. Experience from the GSP indicates that countries seek sustained contact with experts from whom they can learn. In this way, the ECT project will support a move towards continuous cooperation between and among francophone and lusophone countries. Strengthening individual capacity and providing support for sub-regional "fast movers" will establish human resources that can contribute to climate action after the project has concluded. Support for active and organic peer networks/clusters will also lead to durable relationships among experts in targeted regions and subregions.

The project also supports social dimensions of sustainability indirectly through its close alignment with the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) under the Paris Agreement. Countries have expressed their commitment to the agreement and will continue to utilize expertise in transparency from project-trained experts following the conclusion of the project. Furthermore, the project directly encourages countries to enhance and embed enhanced transparency frameworks into their institutional frameworks, which will put procedures into place that will last long after the ECT project finishes.

The project will also support the financial dimensions of sustainability by providing information to countries on resource mobilization for transparency activities, either from donors or from other sources, including capturing efficiencies in ongoing national statistical activities where possible.

In terms of impacts, this project will increase the ownership role that national institutions play in MRV and transparency activities, which increases the likelihood that countries will support continuous MRV systems and will move towards the utilization of the information they generate for national policy-making purposes.

All of these intermediate impacts will increase mitigative capacity and support GHG mitigation in participating countries.

6 Indicative logframe

An indicative logframe is included in appendix 1.

7   Risks and mitigation measures

Table 4 provides an overview project-related risks and how they will be addressed.

Table 4: Project Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risks	Level of Risk	Mitigation measures
Political: Guidance from the UNFCCC changes due to the results of further climate change negotiations	Probability=2 Impact=1 (Low)	1) The project will focus on the elements of effective MRV and transparency: activity data, analysis, quality control, and mainstreaming climate change information into decision-making. The project will support systems and practices that strengthen capacity in these areas, allowing countries to re-configure their outputs in response to changing reporting requirements. 2) Close collaboration with the UNFCCC, as has been the practice with the GSP project, will also be important to keep up to date on any changes or new developments.
Operational: Cluster workshops fail to attract sufficiently high-level decision-makers and practitioners	P=2 I=3 (Moderate)	Experience with regional and sub-regional networks to date has indicated that high-level decision-makers and practitioners will attend when the topics are relevant and emerge from active network discussions. Network participation increases interest and commitment to meetings. Meetings that include participants from other regions/clusters will also increase interest in high-level decision-makers and practitioners, particularly those from "fast-mover" countries that might not see as much added value in standard training. Countries needs will be assessed through interviews with stakeholders (both technical and high-level practitioners) and topics of cluster workshops will be clearly identified and more attractive.
Operational: Experts in participating countries are overworked and will not have enough time to participate meaningfully in the networks and information exchanges supported by the project	P=2 I=3 (Moderate)	1) The use of cluster coordinators eases the workload of experts by providing practical solutions to develop transparency frameworks that can address multiple reporting commitments. 2) Knowledge management and networks will be supported through the projects to minimize the time burden of sharing information on in-country experts.
Political: High turnover of participants due to high turnover of political appointees and civil servants in participating countries	P=3 I=2 (Moderate)	1) The availability of strong documentation and codification of knowledge in French and Portuguese languages under the project will ease the transition between experts and decision-makers. 2) Training and networking meetings will be scheduled throughout the project implementation period, exposing new participants to resources and contacts without a long waiting period. 3) MRV network coordinators and resources on the streamlined platform will provide "onboarding" support as needed.

8 Indicative budget

The estimated budget for a 4-year Programme (targeting up to 35 Countries) is estimated at EUR 5 million, inclusive of project management and overhead administrative costs.

Allocation of resources for year 2 is provided below:

Outputs	Description	Budget
Output 1	Two full time network coordinators (Lusophone and Francophone). Proforma costs for 2 positions for 1 year (estimations based on Senegal and Mozambique as duty stations)	€ 178,948
Output 2	Travel and UN allowances – support of two participants per country to each cluster annual meeting plus south- south, north-south and bilateral training	€ 85,000
	Workshops (e.g. national) costs to foster the timely implementation of BTRs and MRV systems and to support South-South and North-South cooperation and exchanges	€ 180,000
	International consultancies for provision of technical support	€ 80,000
	Companies for the provision of technical support	€ 69,200
	Internship	€ 800
	IT costs and licenses	€ 20,000
	Country allocation funds (3 countries per yr)	€ 375,000
	Audio, visual and print costs - communication and licenses	€ 20,000
Total technical support		**€ 1,008,948**
Project Management Costs (PMC)	Part time project coordinator (60% charged to BE project)	€ 68,000
	Full time project assistant	€ 69,000
Total PMC		**€ 137,000**
UN Coordination Levy (1%)		*€ 12,376*
General Management Support (GMS)		*€ 91,676*
TOTAL		**€ 1,250,000**

9 Project performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the project will be part of UNDP's responsibilities. Belgium will continue to attend the cluster facilitator's meetings and to provide ad-hoc support for specific activities (participation and organization of the workshops, other contribution depending on specific expertise, etc.). The identification and implementation of activities will be done in consultation with Belgium and the other countries/organizations of the clusters. In this context, a priority will be given to the existing coordination process, as the monthly coordination partners call of the FR Cluster and regular calls in the LUS cluster. UNDP and Belgium will be bound by the terms of the Agreement, once signed by both parties.

UNDP will also provide annual reports to the Donor, which will follow the UNDP donor reporting template and include at a minimum annual Executive Summary, Background, Progress Review (output level results corresponding to agreed-upon indicators), Project Risks and Issues, Lessons Learned, Conclusions and Way Forward, and combined financial status at the portfolio level. This reporting will be done using the indicative logframe matrix in Appendix 1, which aligns to the broader Climate Promise portfolio results framework. Such reports will be elaborated in the context of the larger Climate Promise portfolio, and include specific information about the transparency component of the portfolio.

The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period (four years) of the action implementation, including a review of the activities of the entire period.

The donor may undertake at any time project monitoring visits both through their own staff and independent consultants recruited.

Finally, at least one annual Project Board meeting will be held to assess progress implementation at the portfolio level and undertake corrective actions if necessary. In line with UNDP oversight requirements Members of the Board will include, at a minimum, representation from UNDP, Portfolio Management, Development Partners (donors), Beneficiaries, and Project Assurance. The Government of Belgium will occupy one seat on the board. In addition, one seat will be held by a developing country from either the lusophone cluster or the francophone cluster, on a rotating basis. The responsibilities of the Board include:

a. Provide overall guidance and direction and agree on adjustments within provided tolerance levels

b. Assess the achievement of results in the context of the Portfolio and national results/outcomes;

d. Assess risks to the programme or project, and agree on management actions and resources to address them effectively; and

e. Identify and address operational issues of programme and project implementation, including those that could lead to revisions of the portfolio, or country programme or project if required.

Appendix 1 – Indicative Logframe Matrix

Project Objective: Targeted Countries have an effective governance and enabling environment to accelerate and scale NDC implementation, by providing streamlined support and capacity building on data and transparency						
	Outcome Indicators	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target – after 2 years**	**End of Project Target - after 4 years**	**Sources of Verification**	**Assumptions**
Project outcome: **Data and transparency systems** and processes for the Enhanced Transparency Framework are established or strengthened to measure the achievement of NDC targets, across francophone and lusophone developing countries	Indicator 1: Number of project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	*To be established at project start through interviews with among others Belgium, PATPA, FAO*	At least 200 people will utilize support for transparency and reporting from project outputs and activities, *and at least 100 of them will be women.*	At least 1000 people will utilize support for transparency and reporting from project outputs and activities, *and at least 500 of them will be women*.	Reporting by project documentation that includes registration lists for webinars, trainings, and other in-person or on-line gatherings or discussion	Countries that utilize support from the ECT project will apply improvements in capacity to transparency requirements.
	Indicator 2: Percentage of participating experts rating training, technical backstopping, supporting tools and guidance notes 'high' or 'very high' (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) in helping them to prepare high-quality NCs, BURs, and BTRs.	0	At least 60% of participating experts surveyed rate training, technical backstopping, supporting tools and guidance notes 'high' or 'very high' (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) in helping them to implement MRV systems	By the end of the project, at least 75% of participating experts surveyed rate training, technical backstopping, supporting tools and guidance notes 'high' or 'very high' (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) in helping them to prepare high-quality NCs, BURs, and BTRs.	Survey of project beneficiaries in conjunction with the terminal evaluation.	Improved transparency will allow countries to undertake more robust reports on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.
	Indicator 3 Number of developing countries sharing good practices on ETF, NDC tracking	To be established at project start through interviews with among others	Good practices from at least 11 countries have been shared through virtual	Good practices from at least 22 developing countries have been shared through virtual and in person meetings	Review of project documentation	Developing country experts will have time and interest in participating in knowledge exchange.

	and on gender mainstreaming	Belgium, PATPA, FAO	and in person meetings		
	Indicator 4: Number of MRV/M&E systems strengthened or established, including those that are gender-responsive	1 (Brazil) To be validated at project start through interviews with stakeholders	At least 6 countries have received additional support in setting up/enhancing national MRV systems	At least 12 countries have received additional support in setting up/enhancing national MRV systems	Final Survey to Countries